

THINGS TO DO

01 Canvas craft

CMR University is organising a 10-day CMR National Art Camp and Exhibition, titled 'Brushes and Beyond 2025', offering participants and visitors an enriching journey through various art forms. **Where:** CMRU Lakeside Campus, Chagalahatti; **When:** August 18 to 28



02 Melody unleashed

Vineeth Srinivasan will be performing his most loved hits live with his band, as part of Vineeth Sreenivasan Reloaded 2.0 Tour, promising a night of rhythm, and musical magic. **Where:** Phoenix Marketcity, Whitefield; **When:** August 23, 6 pm



03 Classical reverie



Natanam School of Dance is presenting an enchanting evening of Bharatanatyam, portraying the inspiring life of saint-poet Tulsidas, and a presentation featuring a unique series of 60 performances of the Astaragamalika Varna in celebration of Karnataka Kalashree Guru Sathyanarayana Raju's Shastipoothi (60th year). **Where:** Natanam Institute of Dance, Koramangala; **When:** August 23



04 Boundless symphony

With a vision to promote intercultural dialogue and global peace, Sangamam, a first-of-its-kind musical experience, invites audiences into a captivating soundscape that transcends borders, genres, and generations. **Where:** Windmills Craftworks, Whitefield; **When:** August 22 and 23, 9 pm

05 Work of art

Mythic Matrices, a landmark solo exhibition by acclaimed contemporary artist Seema Kohli, presented by the National Gallery of Modern Art, offers a focused retrospective of 20 pivotal years from Kohli's expansive practice. **Where:** National Gallery of Modern Art, Vasanth Nagar; **When:** August 26 to September 26



K'taka sees gradual dip in govt schools

Data reveals that number of government schools in state are reducing over time, pointing to evolving educational ecosystem where private institutions are increasingly filling gap

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Karnataka has witnessed a gradual decline in the number of government schools over the last five years, reflecting a larger trend of consolidation, shifting enrolments, and changing policy focus across the country. According to data released by UDISE+, the number of government schools in Karnataka stood at 49,834 in 2019-20, which steadily declined each year to reach 49,306 in 2023-24 — a net reduction of 528 schools. This downward trend, though not dramatic, indicates a quiet restructuring of government-run education infrastructure in the state.

While some closures may be linked to merging of under-enrolled schools or operational challenges in remote areas, it also points to an evolving educational ecosystem where private institutions are increasingly filling the gap, especially in urban and semi-urban pockets.

According to the data, the picture is mixed nationally. States like Bihar and Rajasthan saw a substantial increase in the number of government schools. Bihar added nearly 5,500 schools between 2019-20 and 2023-24, taking its tally to



Madhya Pradesh witnesses largest decline in govt schools, while states like Bihar and Rajasthan see substantial increase over years

78,120, while Rajasthan saw a jump from 67,660 to 70,233 during the same period. On the other hand, large states like Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, and West Bengal saw consistent declines, similar to Karnataka. Notably, Madhya Pradesh's government schools dropped from 99,411 to 92,439, a loss of nearly 7,000 schools, the sharpest fall in absolute numbers across the country.

The data pointed out that the Union Territories too, showed minor variations, with some like Dadra & Nagar Haveli seeing a spike in numbers due to administrative restructuring post-merger with Daman & Diu. Meanwhile, smaller UTs like Lakshadweep and Chandigarh maintained near-constant figures, reflecting stable demand and limited demographic changes.

As per the data, in Karnataka, the decline has been incremen-

tal and consistent, with each year reporting slightly fewer schools than the last — 49,791 in 2020-21, 49,679 in 2021-22, 49,520 in 2022-23, and finally 49,306 in the current academic year. The state still remains among the top contributors to public education infrastructure nationally but appears to be moving towards optimisation over expansion.

Ratna K, a school teacher, said that with parallel efforts to improve learning outcomes, digitise classrooms, and support government schools through public-private partnerships, Karnataka's slight contraction in school numbers may be part of a broader policy strategy rather than a sign of neglect.

"However, educationists argue that the focus must remain on ensuring equitable access, especially in rural areas where closures can significantly impact children's right to education," said Ratna, adding that as the national landscape continues to shift, Karnataka's approach to balancing infrastructure with quality and efficiency will likely shape the state's public education outcomes in the years ahead.

Errant conductor punished

The Karnataka High Court has affirmed the removal of a conductor employed with the Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC), citing his long record of repeated misconduct.

A division bench comprising Chief Justice Vibhu Bakhru and Justice CM Joshi observed that the employee, Basha of Peresandra village in Chikkaballapura taluk, had been involved in more than 65 instances of misconduct during his service, most of which related to failure to issue tickets to passengers.

Basha had joined KSRTC as a driver-cum-conductor in 2009. On January 13, 2019, during a check at Yelahanka stage point, he was found guilty of not issuing tickets worth Rs 71 each to two passengers travelling from Mehkri Circle to Gauribidanur. When questioned, he contended that the passengers were distracted by headphones and mobile phones and had failed to collect the tickets from him.

The inquiry also took into account his prior record - 57 earlier incidents of misconduct, including eight marked as serious offences. Considering this history, KSRTC dismissed him from service on March 5, 2020.

HC removes KSRTC conductor, says dismissal for single incident might seem harsh but decision had to be viewed in context of persistent misconduct and failure to improve

Basha challenged the dismissal before the Labour Court, which partly accepted his plea. While setting aside the dismissal, the court had ordered withholding of three annual increments with cumulative effect but allowed him to retain other service benefits. KSRTC appealed, and a single judge of the High Court set aside the Labour Court's order, holding that it was not justified in showing leniency to a habitual offender. The judge noted that the conductor had already been punished on 65 occasions.

After his review petition failed, Basha approached the division bench in appeal. Dismissing his plea, the bench observed that while dismissal for a single incident of ticketless travel might seem harsh at first glance, the decision had to be viewed in the context of his persistent misconduct and failure to improve despite repeated warnings.

"The number of misconduct cases has crossed 65. Given such a record, the punishment cannot be considered disproportionate. An employer cannot be compelled to tolerate continuous indiscipline and retain an employee who repeatedly engages in misconduct," the bench concluded. — BMB

Yellow Line Metro to start early today

To manage the expected surge in commuters after the extended Independence Day weekend, Namma Metro will begin Yellow Line services at 5 am on Monday, August 18. The first trains will be departing simultaneously from RV Road and Delta Electronics Bommasandra stations.

This early start applies only for Monday, after which the services will revert to the regular 6.30 am schedule. Meanwhile, Purple and Green Line operations will continue according to their usual schedule, with an early Monday start of 4.15 am. — BMB

Hebbal Flyover extension to be inaugurated today

The extended Hebbal flyover connecting KR Puram to Mehkri Circle will be inaugurated on Monday. Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar will open the flyover and allow traffic movement. The 700-metre extension, built at a cost of about Rs 80 crore by the Bangalore Development Authority (BDA), was launched in 2023 and completed within one and a half years. The project is expected to ease connectivity from KR Puram towards Mehkri Circle. — BMB

Actor Darshan's wife to take control of his social media

Days after Kannada actor Darshan Thoogudeepa was arrested in connection with the Renukaswamy murder case, the actor's wife, Vijayalakshmi Darshan, announced that she will take control of Darshan's social media to share updates regarding the actor's projects. Taking to Darshan's social media handle, Vijayalakshmi wrote that she would be handling the social media of the actor and share updates and movie promotions on his behalf.

She asked Darshan fans to shower love on the ac-



tor and showcase "unity and positivity".

"My Dear #DBoss Celebrities. Your Challenging Star carries each one of you in his heart. Until he returns to connect with you directly, I will be handling his Social Media, to share updates and movie promotions on his behalf. The love, prayers, and patience you continue to show give him and our family immense strength.

Let's hold on to that unity and positivity—he will be back soon, with the same love and energy you've always known. With gratitude and love, Vijayalakshmi Darshan," wrote Vijayalakshmi through Darshan's account.

Kannada actor Darshan Thoogudeepa was arrested in the Renukaswamy murder case shortly after the Supreme Court cancelled his bail on Thursday. The actor has been taken to the Annapoorneshwari Nagar police station and will be later produced before the court. — BMB



FD rate up to 8.4% for senior citizens investing for five years

Some banks are continuing to offer up to 8.4% interest on fixed deposits (FDs) for senior citizens (age 60 years and above) for a five-year term with a maximum limit of Rs 3 crore.

When is TDS deducted from bank FDs?

Banks are required to deduct tax

deducted at source (TDS) if the interest from a fixed deposit (FD) exceeds Rs 1 lakh in a particular bank. Remember, TDS isn't an additional tax; you can reclaim it as a refund or offset it against your total tax liability when you file your income tax return (ITR). Also, if you are eligible for a tax refund, you might also qualify for interest on that refund.

For example, if a senior citizen has an income of Rs 11 lakh, they won't have to pay income tax thanks to the Section 87A tax rebate under the new tax regime for FY 2025-26. The Section 87A tax rebate applies to income up to Rs 12 lakh under the new tax regime for FY 2025-26.

Additionally, a senior citizen can submit Form 15H to avoid TDS

deduction, if their total income, after claiming all tax deductions and the Section 87A rebate, is below the taxable limit, which is Rs 12 lakh for the new tax regime or Rs 5 lakh for the old tax regime.

Even though no income tax is charged on annual income below Rs 12 lakh, banks and other financial institutions will still deduct TDS.

This is because the law requires them to deduct TDS once the interest/income amount surpasses a certain limit, which is Rs 1 lakh for senior citizens. Banks are not aware of individual tax liabilities and will deduct TDS whenever the annual interest exceeds Rs 1 lakh. Hence submit Form 15H to let the banks know.

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Same day or within hours, cheque clearance process to be overhauled

In a bid to speed up the cheque processing time from the current T+1 settlement period, RBI has announced that starting October 1, 2025, cheque handling will move away from the existing batch clearing method to continuous clearing with settlement on realisation.

This will be implemented in 2 phases. "It has been decided to transition CTS to continuous clearing and settlement on realisation in two phases. Phase 1 shall be implemented on October 4, 2025 and Phase 2 on January 3, 2026," the directive noted.

How are cheques cleared at present?

Currently, banks use the CTS, or Cheque Truncation system to process cheques. This system eliminates the need to physically transfer paper cheques between banks, which can take a lot of time. Instead, on the same day, it captures an electronic image along with other important details of the cheque and sends it to the drawee bank, the one responsible for paying the amount specified on the cheque.

The return cycle is completed the next day, after which the settlement takes place. Once the settlement process is done, the customer receives their funds. In other words, all this takes place within a day or two after the cheque is deposited.

What will change with cheque processing starting October 4?

There will be a single presentation session from 10 am to 4 pm, but the confirmation session will run from 10 am to 7 pm. This is an internal process for banks to handle and confirm cheques.

"Cheques received by the branches shall be scanned and sent to the clearing house by the banks immediately and continuously during the presentation session", the circular added. The clearing house will release the cheque images to drawee banks on a continuous

basis.

Once they get the cheque image, the drawee banks will then be required to process the cheques continually and in real-time. They also will have to let the clearing house know if the cheque was honoured or dishonoured immediately

after processing. So for every cheque presented, the drawee bank will either provide a positive confirmation for honoured cheques, or negative confirmation for dishonoured ones.

"Each cheque will contain the 'Item Expiry Time' which indicates the latest time by which confirmation for the presented instrument needs to be provided by the drawee bank", it added. During phase 1, this time has been set at 7 pm.

As explained in the directive, "During phase 1 (From October 4 to January 2, 2026), drawee banks shall be required to confirm (positively / negatively) cheques presented on them latest by end of confirmation session (i.e. 7:00 PM)".

It also adds that in the absence of any confirmation, the cheque will be "deemed to have been approved and included for settlement".

What will change starting January 2026?

During phase 2, "settlement will be arrived every hour till the end of confirmation session, based on the positive confirmations received from drawee banks and cheques considered deemed approved", adds the circular.

Effective January 2026, the item expiry time of cheques will also change from 7 pm to T+3 hours. This means that any cheque that has been presented for clearing at 11 am and 12 noon on a given day, will have to be confirmed either

positively or negatively by 3 pm i.e. 3 hours from 12 noon. If the drawee bank does not provide confirmation for any cheque within these 3 hours, they will be deemed to have been positively confirmed for settlement.

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Compensation row stalls B'luru PRR land acquisition

Activists say BDA has undervalued compensation, offering ₹4.5 crore per acre against 2023 guideline rate of ₹5.5 crore, demand acquisition process to be halted until new notifications are issued

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The Bengaluru Business Corridor (Peripheral Ring Road - PRR Phase 1) has once again run into hurdles as landowners and the Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) remain deadlocked over compensation terms. The 74-km road project, passing through 77 villages, requires 2,557 acres of land. Despite holding 18 rounds of consultations with landowners since August 11, BDA has failed to convince them on compensation norms.

Owners insist on 2013 law

BDA has proposed compensation under the 1894 Land Acquisition Act, factoring in guideline values and offering higher settlement through negotiations. However, landowners demand relief under the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement (LARR) Act, 2013, which ensures better payouts and rehabilitation measures. Citing the outdated 1976

BDA proposes compensation under 1894 Land Acquisition Act, while landowners demand settlement under (LARR) Act, 2013, which ensures better payouts and rehabilitation measures



The Peripheral Ring Road project, which would connect Hosur Road and Tumakuru Road, aims to partially decongest the city traffic

BDA Act, landowners have rejected BDA's terms, demanding that the entire acquisition process be halted until fresh notifications are issued under the 2013 law.

Two decades of delays

The PRR project, aimed at connecting Hosur Road and Tumakuru Road to partially decongest the city, has been stuck for nearly 20 years. Ac-

quisition proceedings began in September 2005, but have faced repeated legal and procedural challenges. While other cities have moved to the LARR Act framework, BDA insists that the 2013 law does not apply to its 1976 Act-based notifications.

Supreme Court directive

The BDA has cited a January 20,

Landowners' demands

Farmers and residents affected by the project have put forward a series of demands:

- Halt the acquisition process until re-notification under the 2013 LARR Act.
- Fix compensation as per revised guideline values, with representation from landowners and urban planning experts in the pricing committee.
- Ensure fair rehabilitation and resettlement within their villages.
- Guarantee at least one government job per displaced family.

2022, Supreme Court ruling that exempts acquisitions under the BDA Act, 1976, from the provisions of the 2013 LARR Act. However, Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar, who also holds the Bengaluru Development portfolio, has assured that higher compensation will be considered than what is mandated under the 1894 Act. He added that, if landowners agree, Transferable Development Rights (TDR) may also be provided as an alternative.

Prepared for legal battle

Activists allege that BDA has undervalued compensation, offering Rs 4.5 crore per acre against the 2023 guideline rate of Rs 5.5 crore. "Instead of revising rates upward, BDA has reduced them. If justice is not delivered, we are ready for a legal fight," said Jagadish Reddy of the Varthur Citizens Welfare Forum.

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Risky roads

Electronic City



Battered roads and unchecked potholes not only endanger motorists but also turn night rides into perilous journeys at Electronic City Phase 1. Authorities remain indifferent.

Poor construction

Ejipura



At the under-construction Ejipura flyover, crumbling concrete raises fears of a looming disaster due to poor construction quality.

Ticket tricks bring trouble into theatres

Distribution of free tickets allows disruptive elements into theatres, creating an unpleasant atmosphere and discouraging genuine moviegoers, say theatre audiences

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Drunkards, drug addicts, and beggars have become a nuisance at some of the single-screen theatres in the city, largely due to some producers and directors distributing free tickets to inflate footfall figures. These tactics, often employed for low and medium-budget films, aim to create the illusion of popularity by artificially boosting audience numbers.

Filmmakers fail to recognise that these gimmicks serve no meaningful purpose. Meanwhile, the staff at single-screen theatres remain silent, as the films are screened on a rental basis.

"We have been objecting to giving free movie tickets to drunkards, beggars, and drug addicts to watch the movies. They create nuisance inside the theatre. They urinate in front of the screen and a few of them even take a bath in the toilet," said an employee at Sapna Theatre.

Expressing concern over the nuisance created by drunkards, Manjunath N, a movie buff, said that he was compelled to cope with bad odour and pungent smell while watching 'Rajadrohi' at Sapna Theatre on Friday morning. "I can't question or shout at him because he got a free ticket to watch the movie. This type of audience will discourage genuine audiences watching Kannada movies at single screen theatres," said Manjunath.



Tickets for low and medium-budget films are often distributed free, allegedly encouraging anti-social elements into theatres

Urging theatre owners to not encourage and support such producers and directors who give out movie tickets free of cost, Purushotham S, a moviegoer, said audiences are in-

creasingly watching Kannada movies if their content is good. "Good and quality Kannada movies do not need such false publicity. I want the exhibitors, theatre staff and producers or directors to ensure no nuisance at theatres," he said.

A well-known exhibitor, on the condition of anonymity, said that most of the exhibitors do not want to allow drunkards and drug addicts into the movie theatres. "I have been advising producers and directors not to bring beggars, drunkards, and drug addicts to watch the movies," said the exhibitor.

Calling the distribution of free tickets to drunkards and beggars a troubling trend, Karnataka Film Chamber of Commerce President M Narasimhulu stated that he would advise producers and directors to refrain from such practices. "It will bring a bad name to the Kannada film industry. It will also discourage genuine audiences watching movies at single screen theatres," he said.

Pothole problem

Rajarajeshwari Nagar



Pothole-ridden double road in Rajarajeshwari Nagar is turning into a danger zone, causing frequent falls for two-wheeler riders.

1 accident every 11 hrs, 1 death in 12 hours on city roads

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Bengaluru records an average of two accidents every day and one death every 12 hours, according to government data spanning the last five and a half years. Transport Minister Ramalingareddy disclosed that between 2018 and mid-2023, the city witnessed 21,910 road accidents, resulting in 4,154 fatalities and 16,247 injuries. While overall road accident numbers in Karnataka have slightly declined in recent years, Bengaluru remains the city with the highest number of accidents and deaths.

Across Karnataka, 2,13,192 accidents over the past five and a half years claimed 60,115 lives. The government has introduced multiple measures to reduce road accidents, including strict-

er enforcement by the Transport, Police, Law, and Public Works departments.

Minister Ramalingareddy highlighted that reckless driving, over-speeding, drunk driving, and not wearing helmets are the main causes of accidents, particularly among young riders. These factors significantly contribute to Bengaluru's high accident and fatality rates.

Vehicle registration in Karnataka

The state currently has 80,43,253 two-wheelers, 1,17,34,448 four-wheelers, 7,14,380 heavy vehicles, 2,57,321 tractors, and 2,89,977 yellow-board commercial vehicles registered with valid driving licenses. Despite these numbers, road safety continues to be a major concern.

From 2020 to 2025, Karnataka has

seen a rising trend in road accidents and fatalities, with 34,178 accidents and 3,760 deaths in 2020, climbing to 43,440 accidents and 12,321 deaths in 2023, followed by 39,228 accidents and 10,319 deaths in 2024, and 21,937 accidents with 5,975 deaths so far in 2025.

Bengaluru tops toll

Bengaluru has recorded the highest number of accidents in the state, with 21,910 incidents and 4,154 deaths over the last five and a half years. Mangaluru follows as the city with the next highest number of accidents and fatalities.

The minister emphasised that despite some improvements, Bengaluru still needs stricter enforcement of traffic rules and stronger public awareness campaigns, including helmet use, speed regulation, and penalties for violations, to make roads safer for all.



File photo of a vehicle involved in an accident being removed from NICE Road near the Ramasandra bridge

Builder to face heat for not delivering flats 11 years on

K-RERA restrains company from creating sale deeds, freezes promoters' accounts; judgement brings relief to home buyers who had paid 90% of cost

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The Karnataka Real Estate Regulatory Authority (K-RERA), in a landmark judgment, restrained Sanchaya Land and Estate Private Limited from creating any sale by way of agreement or executing any sale deed of any apartment or creating third party interest until completion of the project and by obtaining occupancy certificate by the jurisdictional planning authority.

The K-RERA gave the judgment based on complaints lodged by around 100 home buyers against the realty company for not delivering the flats that were booked in March 2013 and supposed to be delivered by December 2014. The developer launched a group housing – The Green – at Kapur village, Kasaba Hobli, Anekal taluk. The developer was supposed to construct and deliver 650 flats to the homebuyers who paid 90 percent of the cost.

According to the judgment, the developer failed to complete the construction and deliver the flats to the home buyers and also violated the norms. "The Registrar is directed to freeze the accounts of promoters as per the Section 4© of the RERA Act and facilitate the remaining development work," the judgment copy signed by K-RERA Chairman Rakesh Singh and K-RERA Member GR Reddy read.

The judgment ordered the promoter to establish the Association of Allottees under Karnataka Co-operative Societies Act or Companies Act within 30 days from the date of the order.



The state of the flats that were supposed to be delivered in 2014 as of now

“Unfortunately hundreds of home buyers were trapped in this scam. K-RERA judgment is comforting for us

—Sudhir Menon, home buyer

"The promoter to share a list of all allottees in the projects (Phase-I and Phase-II of The Greens) along with contact detail like address, e-mail ID, and phone number of allottees to the Authority, the entire cost of such formation shall be borne by the promoter as per RERA Act and the said association has first right to talk over the project," the judgment read.

The K-RERA, in the judgment, has said that it will initi-

ate suo-moto action against the respondent for contravention of the Act under the Section 60, 61, 63, and 69 in its routine course. "No complaints on the part of the allottees are necessary in this regard," the judgment read.

Buyers relieved

Home buyers have welcomed the historic judgment of K-RERA. They said the promoter has been delaying the completion of the construction all these years.

"I am one of the first 100 home buyers who booked the flats in March 2013. I came to know about The Greens through an advertisement in a newspaper. I am supposed to get possession of the flat by December 2014 but till now the flat is not ready. I ended up paying EMI as well as house rent. I am happy that K-RERA has realised the problems of home buyers," said

Sanchita Banerjee, a home buyer.

Expressing a similar opinion, Sudhir Menon, a home buyer, said that he was happy with the K - R E R A j u d g m e n t . "Unfortunately hundreds of home buyers were trapped in this scam. K-RERA judgment is comforting for us," said Menon.

Welcoming the K-RERA judgment, Raghunathan KC, president of The Greens Buyers' Association said the K-RERA gave judgment after a five-year delay from the date of filing in 2019. "It has clearly established fund diversion by the builder, after collecting 90% of the amount from home buyers. The said promoter/builder has no office, staff or cannot be reached. On the whole this is a landmark judgment by K-RERA, and a warning to all errant and fraudulent builders," Raghunathan said.

Building owner held in deadly blaze; 'lane full of violations'

The Halasurugate police have arrested building owner Sandeep Shetty and Balakrishna Shetty on charges of negligence after a fire killed five people, including a couple and their two minor children.

The accused have been taken into custody for questioning to verify building details, safety measures, and violations. They were remanded to judicial custody on Sunday.

Police and fire officials have advised residents to regularly check electrical connections and ensure basic safety precautions to avoid such incidents. "The area is so congested and narrow that even heavy vehicles cannot pass through," a police officer said, pointing to the challenges faced during rescue operations.

According to police, almost every building in the lane has violations at different levels, making corrective action difficult.

Reports from the Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL) and BESCOM are awaited to confirm the exact cause of the fire. Though an electrical short circuit is suspected, officials said confirmation will come only after the investigation reports are submitted.

—BMB

5 arrested for cow slaughter in Nelamangala

Nelamangala police have arrested a gang of five for slaughtering two cows and dumping the carcasses along the Nelamangala-Aralasandra village road in Kasaba hobli last Saturday.

Police said the accused were involved in supplying beef to neighbouring states, including Kerala, after purchasing cattle from Shivaji Nagar market. The cattle were taken to a buyer from Kerala who had come to Nelamangala for inspection. When the buyer rejected two cows due to their poor condition, the accused allegedly slaughtered them on the spot and abandoned the carcasses by the roadside before sending the rest of the consignment with the trader.

The incident came to light when constable Sharath DN and his colleague Hanumantharaya, who were on patrol, found the carcasses with throats slit and reported it to the station.

Based on a complaint, Nelamangala Rural Police registered a case under the Karnataka Prevention of Cow Slaughter and Cattle Preservation Act and also under the Motor Vehicles Act on Monday. Taking serious note of the incident, Superintendent of Police CK Baba formed two special teams. Using technical evidence, police tracked down the accused and arrested them, including the vehicle owner.

—ANI

Flyover delay worsens commuter struggles

With execution for long-pending rotary flyover project at Banaswadi stalled, residents of surrounding areas continue to struggle due to traffic congestion and rerouted public transport

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Residents of Kammanahalli, Maruthi Sevanagar, and surrounding localities have expressed deep frustration over the long-pending rotary flyover project at the Banaswadi Railway Overbridge. The existing flyover has effectively bifurcated Kammanahalli and Banaswadi, forcing buses and motorists to take long detours. Commuters from Kammanahalli heading towards Ayyappa Temple or Maruthi Sevanagar to catch a bus are particularly affected, with public transport connectivity between Kammanahalli, Shivajinagar, Majestic, and City Market severely affected.

The project, which began as early as 2009 with road widening and land markings, was stalled multiple times due to resident protests, design changes, and issues related to the adjacent railway station. In 2017-18, under the Nagarothana scheme, a rotary flyover was proposed to ease congestion, with an estimated cost of Rs 360 crore. Although tenders were floated and a foundation stone was laid, execution has not begun. Residents allege that there is confusion over the project's status, with reports suggesting the contractor has not

Residents demand technically sound, phased execution of Banaswadi Railway Overbridge project to minimise disruption, say delay in completion would prolong their hardships



Residents have urged authorities to ensure proper access to SMVT Railway Station, highlighting that people cross railway tracks dangerously due to absence of dedicated approach road

been given SR rights and is unwilling to proceed. They warn that a re-tender will only push the completion further, prolonging their daily hardships. To cross just one kilometre, commuters are forced to take detours of up to four kilometres, worsening traffic congestion and wasting fuel and time. Locals are demanding a technically sound, phased execution to minimise disruption.

"The project has been delayed due to one or the other reasons. It has become tough for motorists to commute on this road due to traffic jams during the peak hours. The existing flyover is constructed unscientifically. I, during the public consultation held on September 22, 2012, suggested some modifications to ease out traffic jams but the authorities did nothing till date," said N Venkatesh, President

of Maruthi Seva Nagar Residents' Welfare Association.

Service road and SMVT station access

Residents have urged the authorities to ensure proper access to Sir M Visvesvaraya Terminal (SMVT) Railway Station, highlighting that people are crossing railway tracks dangerously due to the absence of a dedicated approach road. They want service roads below the proposed rotary flyover to be built immediately and have also sought a solution for the lack of a proper pick-up and drop-off facility at SMVT, where police frequently fine commuters.

Traffic and public transport woes

Traffic snarls near Ayyappa Temple are a daily occurrence, with residents saying it can take up to an hour to travel just two kilometres. Students are particularly affected, often reach-

ing colleges late due to prolonged congestion. The rerouting of Bangalore Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC)'s 301A service from Kammanahalli to KR Market via Coles Park—skipping St John's Road and Shivajinagar—has further inconvenienced commuters. Locals want the original route restored and more buses added to serve the area.

Road and footpath issues

The poor condition of internal roads, with multiple road cuttings in each cross, has made them slippery and accident-prone. Residents have called for urgent asphaltting. Footpaths are either missing or in disrepair, and the absence of zebra crossings between Jaibharati Nagar and Maruthi Sevanagar is making it unsafe for the public. The lack of proper dividers also forces pedestrians to risk their lives while crossing.

Waste and streetlight problems



A dumping yard on Baiyappanahalli Road remains an eyesore, and residents want the CV Raman Nagar and Sarvagnanagar MLAs to jointly resolve the issue. They also highlight that streetlights lack automatic switches, leading to irregular lighting in several stretches.

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ACs warned against overstepping authority

Revenue Minister Krishna Byre Gowda has issued a stern warning to Assistant Commissioners (ACs), stating that strict action will be taken if they continue to entertain civil cases beyond their jurisdiction. Chairing a monthly progress review meeting with ACs via video conference from Vikasa Soudha on Saturday, he revealed that ACs in five districts had issued orders exceeding their authority. Expressing displeasure at negligence, the minister also pulled up an AC from Chikkamagaluru for using his mobile phone during the meeting, reminding officers to maintain basic respect for official proceedings. He further directed that every future order must clearly state under which law and section it has been issued, and whether the officer is legally empowered to do so. Gowda also instructed AC courts to clear long-pending cases.

— BMB

iPhone 17 production begins in Bengaluru

Bengaluru has officially joined the global iPhone supply chain, with Foxconn's massive Devanahalli unit commencing production of the iPhone 17. The \$2.8 billion (Rs 25,000 crore) facility is Foxconn's second-largest worldwide and marks a major shift in Apple's manufacturing strategy, strengthening India's position as a key hub outside China.

Sources said the Bengaluru plant, alongside Foxconn's Chennai unit, has begun limited production of iPhone 17, with Apple aiming to ramp up output to 60 million units this year from about 35-40 million in 2024-25. The move comes as Apple increasingly relies on India, assembling 60 per cent more iPhones worth \$22 billion in the fiscal year ending March 2025, with CEO Tim Cook confirming that a majority of iPhones sold in the US in June originated from India.

— BMB

Idol spat

At the RV Road-Bommasandra Metro Yellow Line inauguration, Deputy CM DK Shivakumar put the brakes on a swirl of gossip — the silver Ganesh idol he handed to Prime Minister Modi, he said, was bought with his own money, not borrowed from BJP MLA M Krishnappa as some media and social media posts claimed. No public funds, no political hand-me-downs — just a personally chosen gift, carried from his home, cleared by SPG, and presented on stage. "I don't do re-gifting, least of all to the Prime Minister," he remarked, shutting the rumour mill with a touch of flair.

Camera clash

It was supposed to be a routine arrest. But in Rajarajeshwari Nagar, things took an unscripted turn straight out of a reality show. Fresh off a bail cancellation, prime accused Pavithra Gowda was at home when a team led by Govindarajanagar Police Inspector Subrahmanya arrived at her doorstep. The plan was simple — arrest, escort, paperwork. But as she was being led down the stairs, the cops whipped out their phones and began

NOTES FROM THE FIELD

recording video footage. That's when Pavithra snapped. Pausing mid-step, she glared at the camera crew and shot back, "What's this? Don't you already know?" Some arrests come quietly. This one came with dialogue delivery.

Modi-DK metro mingle

During the recent launch of the Yellow Metro Line, Deputy CM DK Shivakumar and PM Modi were seen deep in conversation, sparking curiosity and buzz among onlookers. Shivakumar revealed that he briefed Modi on innovative funding plans like double-decker buses and CSR-backed naming rights for metro stations—Modi reportedly praised him, saying, "Well done, DK!" Addressing swirling rumours, Shivakumar firmly stated he has no intentions of joining BJP, emphasising his sole focus on Bengaluru's development. He highlighted fundraising successes from major companies for naming metro stations in Electronic City and stressed that education-

al institutions should prioritise social service over profit, reflecting his grounded approach despite his political stature.

Masterclass in patience

CM Siddaramaiah told lawmakers to mind their tone and curb personal grudges while debating in the Assembly, especially when opposition members critique the ruling party. During a fiery discussion on fertiliser shortages and allegations against Minister KJ George, CM stressed that while criticism is allowed, words must be chosen carefully—students and citizens are watching, and seniors should set a model for newcomers. Echoing the sentiment, Congress leaders DK Shivakumar and Ashok noted that personal digs in the House are unacceptable, calling for decorum over drama.

Cash sunbath

At Yallamma Gudda in Saundatti, the rain gods went rogue, flooding the temple hundi with a deluge that left bundles of currency

soaked like laundry. In a scene straight out of a bizarre art installation, officials fished out the soggy notes—still blushing red with kum-kum—and spread them across the temple courtyard for a good sunbath. With cash, coins, and the occasional glitter of gold and silver offerings rescued under watchful eyes of temple authorities and revenue officials, the hill that draws lakhs of devotees from across India became, for a day, Karnataka's most unusual open-air drying yard.

Pomegranate pinch

In a fruity twist to KGF's crime files, Bethamangala police nabbed three men who allegedly treated a pomegranate orchard like their personal grocery store, making off with 65 kilos of the ruby-red loot worth Rs 9,750. Acting on a complaint from farmer Munireddy, cops under DYSP S Panduranga's watch and CPI YR Rangashamiah's lead tracked down Subramani, Narayanaswamy, and Amareesh—recovering both the bounty and the two-wheeler they rode in on. The trio now face legal action, and the pomegranates have been rescued from their life of crime.

— Sridhar Vivan



BM SIMPLY PUT

Hidden dangers behind unlimited reach of mobile YouTubers, viral content

Rise & fall of the influencer



Influence beyond entertainment: Political and social impact

Today's influencers are not confined to fashion, cooking, cinema, or entertainment. Their reach extends into serious domains such as politics, governance, and law. Some influencers are ready to go to extreme lengths for virality, sometimes even risking their lives. The growing culture of influencers cannot simply be dismissed or condemned outright. Like society, it evolves over time. When influencers stray onto unethical paths, societal correction and legal action are necessary. Governments should frame guidelines to bring influencers under legal scrutiny, especially those with administrative or political influence.

Need for awareness, responsibility

More important than laws is the development of community awareness, sensitivity, and commitment. If influencers cultivate social responsibility, they can positively impact society. Instead of chasing popularity blindly, they should be mindful of the messages they send, which benefits everyone.

Guidelines for Responsible Content Creation in Sensitive Areas

Certain government and defense buildings, such as the Vidhana Soudha, Raj Bhavan, courts, ISRO, nuclear facilities, and restricted zones, prohibit photography, videography, and drone flights. For instance: ● Drones over 250 grams require official permission. ● Even lightweight drones must not fly beyond 50 feet altitude. ● There is a registration process for drones. ● When visiting traditional sites, temples, or government buildings, influencers must strictly follow instructions prohibiting the use of mobile phones, photography, or videos, keeping national security and social responsibility in mind.

Dangerous link between influencers and espionage

Posting photos or videos with geo-tags near sensitive locations like military bases, border areas, or logistics sites can unwittingly provide precise location data to hostile elements worldwide. Influencers with large networks and connections to celebrities, wealthy businessmen, senior government officials, and even the Prime Minister's office have unparalleled access. If misused, this power can facilitate the spread of propaganda or even harm national security by sharing content that may undermine public trust in government and military.

Ripple effect

Targeting one influencer can damage the entire network of connected influencers. They can also be manipulated to target intelligence officials or sensitive operations. The potential for misuse exists, as influencers operate without accountability or reporting obligations to any higher authority. Influence on Public Opinion and Potential for Misinformation: Influencers' posts and comments significantly shape public opinion. Even controversial or politically sensitive topics can ignite unrest, hostility, or social disruption tailored to local sentiments. This highlights the critical need for responsible conduct among influencers.

Wake-up call

The Jyothi Malhotra case is a wake-up call about the power and responsibility influencers hold. As their influence grows in political, social, and security domains, a combination of legal frameworks and heightened community consciousness is essential to ensure their positive impact and prevent misuse.

Today, it feels like every third person around us is a YouTuber, armed with just a mobile phone and a camera. With mobile videography becoming easier and more accessible, countless individuals are creating and sharing content online every moment. While this digital creativity empowers many, few realise the hidden risks involved—how a simple video or post can unintentionally put someone's safety, privacy, or even

national security in jeopardy. The arrest of YouTuber Jyothi Malhotra, branded as a spy, has drawn national attention to the influencer culture in India. This case raises serious questions about the social responsibilities and loyalties of influencers, especially when they are willing to go to any extent for viral fame. Understanding how influencers might have been exploited for espionage activities reveals startling implications.

Spy allegation reveals about influencer culture

Jyothi Malhotra's case spotlights how influencers today have immense social power but also exposes vulnerabilities in their commitments and ethics. It forces us to reconsider the blind faith followers place in influencers, who, like historical leaders and saints, traditionally had loyal followers—but in the digital age, the meaning of "followers" has changed drastically.

Social media frenzy and overload of content

YouTube and social platforms are flooded with an explosive amount of videos every second—covering entertainment, information, and everything in between. However, these videos often lack scrutiny regarding the agenda behind them, the credibility of the creator, and their social responsibility. This unchecked excess leads to worrying trends.

Cop arrested in bribery case, victims spill beans on ordeals

Y Maheswara Reddy
c-y.reddy@timesofindia.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Residents of Ramamurthy Nagar and police constables working at Ramamurthy Nagar Police Station heaved a sigh of relief after Karnataka Lokayukta police arrested two police inspectors and an individual on Saturday night.

"Lokayukta Police officials have arrested a Police Inspector, Police Sub-Inspector, and an individual on corruption charges. The three accused were taken into custody and produced before the magistrate," said Lokayukta Superintendent of Police, Bangalore City 2.

The accused have been identified as Police Inspector Rajasekhar, Police Sub-Inspector Ruman Pasha, and Imran Pasha from DJ Halli. The accused were arrested while accepting a bribe of Rs 1 lakh. It is said the police inspectors demanded Rs 2 lakh bribe from Manjunth, a resident of KR Puram, to register a non-cognizable report (NCR) for a case

involving missing jewellery.

According to reliable sources, corruption was rampant at Ramamurthy Nagar Police Station after Rajasekhar got transferred to Ramamurthy Nagar Police Station a few months ago. "The Police Inspector used to fix targets for sub-inspectors and assistant sub-inspectors and even Hoysala team and others. He became notorious for corruption. He used to stay extra hours to collect money from complainants," said a police constable on the condition of anonymity.

It is said the registration of FIRs has come down after Rajasekhar assumed office at Ramamurthy Nagar Police Station. "The Police Inspector's focus was registering NCRs and not FIRs to make money," said a police constable.

It is learnt that Rajasekhar allegedly refused to register a FIR based on a complaint of a person from Andhra Pradesh. The victim lost around Rs 50 lakh in a gold scam. It is alleged that Rajasekhar registered the FIR only after collecting Rs 5 lakh from the victim.

Rajasekhar is known for keeping the com-



Lokayukta police officials enter the Ramamurthy Nagar Police Station

plainants waiting for hours if they fail to meet his demand for money (bribe).

For example, Renuka V Reddy, a non-resident Indian, approached Rajasekhar on July 7, 2025 to lodge a complaint. The police inspector made her wait till evening. Renuka, being a diabetic, fainted in the police station and her relatives had to rush her to the nearest hospital for treatment. It is alleged that Rajasekhar demanded Rs 1 lakh for registering the NCR.

The complainant's relative gave Rs 25,000 to the Police Inspector for registering the NCR.

Recalling another harrowing incident, Yatish M, a complainant, said the Police Inspector made him wait till midnight despite Deputy Commissioner of Police (East) D Devaraj directing him to register the FIR based on his complaint. "I approached the Police Inspector with a complaint pertaining to a land dispute. The Police Inspector asked me to get permission from the DCP (East). I followed his advice and met the DCP on August 1. The Police Inspector also visited the DCP Office on the same day. The DCP, after hearing our version, directed the Police Inspector to register the FIR. It was at 4 pm. We visited Ramamurthy Nagar Police Station at 6 pm but he made us register the FIR till midnight on one or the other pretext," he said.

The Police Inspector was famous on social media for allegedly demanding an iPhone for issuing a gun licence in July. It is said that it is the third time Ruman Pasha has been arrested for bribery.

Commuters highlight poor condition of Thalaghattapura Metro Station



Concerns have been raised on social media about the “pathetic condition” of the Namma Metro Thalaghattapura station, with users pointing to garbage dumping, sewage on the road, pigeons, stray cattle, and mosquito breeding around the premises.

The post, which tagged BMRC, BBMP, and ICCB Bengaluru, urged authorities not to blame low ridership on the metro unless stations are made approachable for citizens.

Responding to the complaint, Team ICCB Bengaluru asked the user to share the specific location and provided a helpline number (1533) for queries. Meanwhile, other users joined the discussion, pointing out that citizens too share responsibility for the unhygienic condition around public spaces.

Authorities are yet to announce if any action will be taken. **BMB**

‘Government must give reasons before referring disputes to labour court’

The High Court has ruled that when the validity of a settlement reached under Section 12(3) of the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947, is challenged, the appropriate government must record reasons before referring the matter for adjudication before a labour court.

Justice Anant Ramanath Hegde delivered the ruling while partly allowing a batch of petitions filed by Bosch Ltd, which had contested a June 28, 2021 order referring disputes raised by about 160 former workmen to adjudication.

The court observed that a higher level of scrutiny is required when disputes arise from conciliation settlements compared to other disputes. “Where at least one party asserts that a settlement was recorded under Section 12(3) before the Conciliation Officer, and the other party disputes it, the scrutiny expected from the government under Section 12(5) is a couple of degrees higher,” the bench noted.

At the same time, the court clarified that the government is not expected to adjudicate the merits of the settlement, but must satisfy itself on certain factors before making a reference.

The High Court laid down broad guidelines for the govern-

ment’s consideration, including whether: the settlement resolved all disputes raised in conciliation, any issues remain unsettled despite the agreement, the settlement prima facie contravenes the Industrial Disputes Act or Standing Orders, the settlement was duly signed by authorised representatives, and the settlement has been acted upon over time.

Case Background

The dispute arose when Bosch workmen alleged denial of employment from August 2015. A conciliation process initially failed, but at the intervention of the Industry Minister, talks resumed before the Deputy Labour Commissioner. On February 8, 2017, a settlement was recorded, under which each workman received ₹14 lakh as a full and final severance package.

While the receipt of pay-

ment was undisputed, some workmen later challenged the validity of the settlement, alleging coercion and duress. They approached the High Court in 2021 seeking to reopen the dispute.

The company argued that the settlement, signed before a Conciliation Officer, was binding under Sections 18 and 19 of the Act and that no industrial dispute survived after the workmen accepted the compensation.

Court’s findings

The bench held that a second conciliation proceeding was not barred by law if both parties jointly requested it, even if a failure report had earlier been sent. Such flexibility, the court noted, aligned with the philosophy of the Act, which prioritises amicable resolution through conciliation over adversarial litigation. **BMB**

Things fall apart

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

monsoons, even when there are no complaints. “Regular monitoring of tree canopy is the need of the hour. However, to ensure this, the department needs adequate manpower and support from other departments for coordinated maintenance. Emphasis should be on preventive measures rather than emergency response. Additionally, harmful practices like concreting tree bases, nailing, and cables must stop to protect their roots and branches,” said Vinod Jacob, city-based civic evangelist and environmentalist.

Rise of fall

Statistics of trees and branches falling complaints from citizens show that such incidents in Bengaluru are on the rise.

Between April 2020 and March 2021, BBMP’s canopy management teams attended to 7,472 cases of fallen trees and branches. This number went up to 12,107 between April 2021 and March 2022, followed by 17,948 canopy management cases between April 2023 and March 2024. Between April 2024 and May 2025, the canopy management teams tended to nearly 20,000 cases.

BBMP has also increased the number of canopy management teams over the last few years. BBMP had 15 canopy management teams in 2020, which was expanded to 28 teams in 2023, followed by 30 teams currently.

“There are a few old trees in our locality -- one particularly tall one in our street, cradles branches hanging precariously. BBMP had pruned the tree a couple of years ago after we raised a ticket. Post that, we haven’t seen anyone conducting regular checks of the tree canopy in this area. Usually, residents hire private tree cutters and get it done because children play on the streets and they also have automobiles parked underneath,” said Rachana Ravi, a resident of Hosakerehalli.

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personal

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Faheemuddin Mohammed Sirajuddin R/o No 63 Noha Shivajinagar Bangalore 560051 Have Changed My Name To Faheemuddin For All Purposes

I, SULEMAN SHARIEF JUMABHAI KHWAJA, S/o. Sharif Khwaja, residing at No. 010, Maangalya Residences, No. 6/1, Benson Cross Road, Benson Town, Bangalore-560046, have changed my name to SULAIMAN SHARIF KHWAJA, vide affidavit dated 12.08.2025, sworn before notary V Rajashekara, Bengaluru.

I, Shelly Roy w/o Dilip Kumar Roy R/o C804 Tower C, Shriram Blue, sy no.123 Medahalli Kadugodi Road, Sonnenahalli colony, Bengaluru 560049 have changed my name to Usha Roy Affidavit Dt.16/08/2025 notary Harisha G, B'luru

I Ambika Rahul Vallathai D/O, Sankaran Kutty Kulakkunnath R/o 2nd Floor, Susan Cottage, No.37, 3rd J Main, Ramaiah Lyt, Kammanahalli, Bengaluru Pin:560084 have changed my name to Ambika Menon.

I, YASMIN SULEMAN KHWAJA, W/o. Sulaiman Sharif Khwaja, residing at No. 010, Maangalya Residences, No. 6/1, Benson Cross Road, Benson Town, Bangalore-560046, have changed my name to YASMIN SULAIMAN KHWAJA, vide affidavit dated 12.08.2025, sworn before notary V Rajashekara, Bengaluru.

I, NAGALAKSHMI M W/o CHANDRASHEKAR BASAVARAJU, R/o H No 39, 14TH Main Road G.K. Layout Parappana Agrahara, Electronic City, Bengaluru-560100. I have changed my name to NAGALAKSHMI vide affidavit dated: 11/08/2025 Before Notary B M CHANDRASHEKAR Bangalore.



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Latest con uses fake CAPTCHA

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

How the scam works

Unlike traditional phishing attempts that often rely on suspicious emails or fake login pages, this scam hides under the trusted appearance of a CAPTCHA. Fake CAPTCHAs may appear on compromised websites, malicious links shared on social media, or even through deceptive pop-ups.

When users interact with these fake CAPTCHAs, they are often asked to perform unusual actions that go beyond the standard image selection or checkbox verification. In some cases, the page may prompt them to scan a QR code in order to “continue verification,” or download and open a file supposedly required to “prove they are human.”

In more advanced scams, users are instructed to copy and paste commands directly into their system’s terminal, which can silently install malware and hand over control of the device to attackers.

Following these instructions gives attackers direct access to the device. Experts warn that the real danger lies not in clicking the CAPTCHA itself, but in carrying out the follow-up steps, which

can lead to malware infections and identity theft.

Expert insight

BM spoke to Chetan Anand, National Cyber Security Scholar and Cybercrime Intervention Officer, who explained why fake CAPTCHAs have become an effective tool for scammers.

“People are familiar with CAPTCHA tests and rarely question them. That sense of trust is what cybercriminals exploit. When a fake CAPTCHA asks them to do something unusual, like downloading a file or running a command, users may assume it’s just a new type of verification,” Chetan said. He further noted that the scam is spreading through social media links and fake error messages, which redirect users to these mali-

cious pages.

If someone has already interacted with a fake CAPTCHA and followed its instructions, experts recommend immediate action, that is disconnect the device from the internet, run a full antivirus scan, clear browser data, and change passwords for sensitive accounts using a separate secure device.

With cybercriminals constantly finding new ways to bypass security, experts emphasise that awareness is the best defence. Fake CAPTCHAs work because they exploit routine user behaviour, most people see a CAPTCHA and comply without second thought.

“Cybersecurity is not just about technology, it’s about awareness, if something feels unusual, it probably is. Trust your instincts and verify before you click,” Chetan added.





Feeling grateful...

A little appreciation may go a long way



GratITUDE statements like “Thanks! You are so kind!” and “Thank you! What you did was really helpful,” are common when someone receives assistance from another person.

Such expressions of gratitude and appreciation have long been thought to encourage the helper to do kind things again in the future. But do they?

In contrast to past research, our new findings published in the Journal of Experimental Social Psychology suggest that gratitude does not always promote future helping. Our research was conducted using a new approach called a Registered Report. It required that the design of our experiment, our hypotheses and analytic plans, were vetted by experts before we started.

Expressions of gratitude

We conducted two large pre-registered experiments and found mixed results. In the first experiment, more than 600 university students recorded a short video to welcome a new student (played by a member of our research team) to campus.

In response to this kind act, we sent participants one of three randomly assigned pre-recorded videos. Some participants received a video in which the new student expressed gratitude for the participant’s kind act: “Thank you! What you did was

very kind.”

Other participants received a video in which the new student expressed gratitude for the participant’s kind character: “Thank you! You are very kind.” Finally, some participants in a control condition received a video of the new student acknowledging that they had received the recording, but with no expression of gratitude at all. Afterwards, all participants were invited to write up to five brief notes to welcome other new students to university, which we treated as a measure of future helping behaviour.

Reception

By sending participants one of the three video replies, we were able to test two important questions about gratitude. Does receiving an expression of gratitude, regardless of whether it mentions your kind act or kind character, lead to more helping in the future compared to not receiving gratitude? Also, does the content of the gratitude matter — in other words, do some gratitude notes lead to more helping in the future than others?

To find out, we compared how

many welcome notes participants wrote across the three video conditions provided. We found no differences across conditions, which suggests that receiving a gratitude expression and its contents may not impact future helping. These results were in contrast to our predictions and past work by others.

Written expressions

Welcoming new students is one way to be kind, but there are many other ways to help. So, we conducted another experiment to test the same key questions.

Does receiving a gratitude expression increase future helping behaviour? And does the content of the gratitude message matter?

This time, however, we used written thank-you messages instead of videos and measured helping in the form of donations.

Over 800 adults recruited online completed an innocuous survey that provided an opportunity to complete an initial kind act of donating to charity. Two days later, participants were invited back to complete a second survey that began with what we told participants was a thank-you letter from the charity

they supported — participants received one of three letters we had created for the purposes of our study.

As in the first study, some participants were thanked for their kind act: “Thank you! Your generous donation was very kind.” Other participants were thanked for their kind character: “Thank you! You are very kind and generous.”

Once again, some participants did not receive a message of thanks, but were informed that their donation had been received. Participants completed a few other questions and were then given the opportunity to help again by deciding how much, if any, of an additional one-dollar bonus they would like to donate to a new charity.

We compared donations across the three conditions and found that people who received a thank-you note gave more money than people who received a simple message that their donation was received.

Donation levels did not differ between the two types of gratitude expressions. People thanked for their kind act gave roughly as much (42 cents) as people who were thanked for their kind character (42 cents), which was higher than the 34 cents given by people in the control condition.

Everyday importance

While we did not see significant differences in help provided by people who were thanked for their kind action or character, this does not mean that people should stop saying thanks. Expressing gratitude can make the person expressing appreciation feel good and strengthen social relationships.

There may be less reason to stress over how exactly you express your appreciation to others. Past research has shown that many people are uncertain about how to properly and eloquently relay their gratitude.

Unfortunately, these worries can reduce the likelihood of someone sharing a simple but heartfelt statement of appreciation and our work reinforces this same underlying idea. Exactly what is said when expressing thanks may be less important than communicating appreciation.

(Lara Aknin, Kristina Castaneto, Tiara A Cash, Simon Fraser University; Anuradha Amarasekera, Toronto Metropolitan University, The Conversation)

There may be less reason to stress over how exactly you express your appreciation to others as long as you communicate it



MIRRORLIGHTS

Workplace bullying hinders creative thinking: IIM study

Workplace bullying and negative behaviour such as being excluded, humiliated or treated unfairly hinders creative thinking and reduces the likelihood of employees engaging in innovative side projects, a study by Indian Institute of Management (IIM), Lucknow has found.

In many organisations, employees work on secret, self-initiated ideas developed without manage-

ment’s knowledge and present them to the management once they are ready to deliver significant results leading to business success, it said. According to officials, the researchers employed a mixed-method approach to gather the necessary data.

In the experimental scenario-based part of the research, the team gathered input from 112 participants. In the survey-based part

of the research, input from 313 employees working in IT-enabled companies was gathered.

“Our study sheds light on how subtle forms of workplace mistreatment can silently erode employees’ creative potential. Organisations must create an environment where support, respect, and open dialogue are the norm to unlock true innovation,” Rishab Chauhan, PhD scholar, IIM Lucknow,

told PTI.

The study found that workplace bullying reduces the likelihood of employees engaging in innovative side projects while negative workplace behaviour drains employees’ “relational energy” which they gain from feeling supported or recognised. Open communication between managers and employees can help preserve and revive creative thinking, it noted.

—PTI



All you need to know about...

Benefits of walnuts

Brain Function

Packed with antioxidants, polyphenols, and omega-3s, walnuts enhance the cognitive performance and memory. These nutrients help protect the brain from oxidative stress, which is linked to ageing and neurodegenerative diseases.

Heart Health

Walnuts are rich in omega-3 fatty acids, which help reduce bad cholesterol (LDL) levels and improve good cholesterol (HDL). Regular consumption of this can lower blood pressure and decrease inflammation, both are important factors in preventing heart disease. Studies have also linked walnuts to improved blood vessel function, further boosting cardiovascular health.

Weight Management

Walnuts are calorie-dense, still it can help with weight control by promoting satiety. The combination of protein, fibre, and healthy fats keeps you fuller for longer, reducing the urge to snack on unhealthy foods. They also help regulate blood sugar levels.

Gut Health

Walnuts act as a prebiotic, as it feeds the beneficial gut bacteria. A healthy gut microbiome supports digestion, better absorption of the nutrients, and immunity. Regular intake has been shown to increase good bacteria strains that promote overall wellness.

Inflammation

Chronic inflammation is linked to many lifestyle diseases, from diabetes to arthritis. Walnuts contain polyphenols, vitamin E, and omega-3s, all of which help fight against inflammation. Eating them regularly can lower inflammatory possibilities in the body.

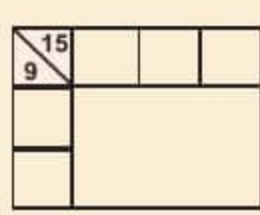
Diabetes Management

Walnuts have a low glycaemic index and help improve insulin sensitivity. Their healthy fat and fibre content prevent sudden spikes in blood sugar levels.

—Femina

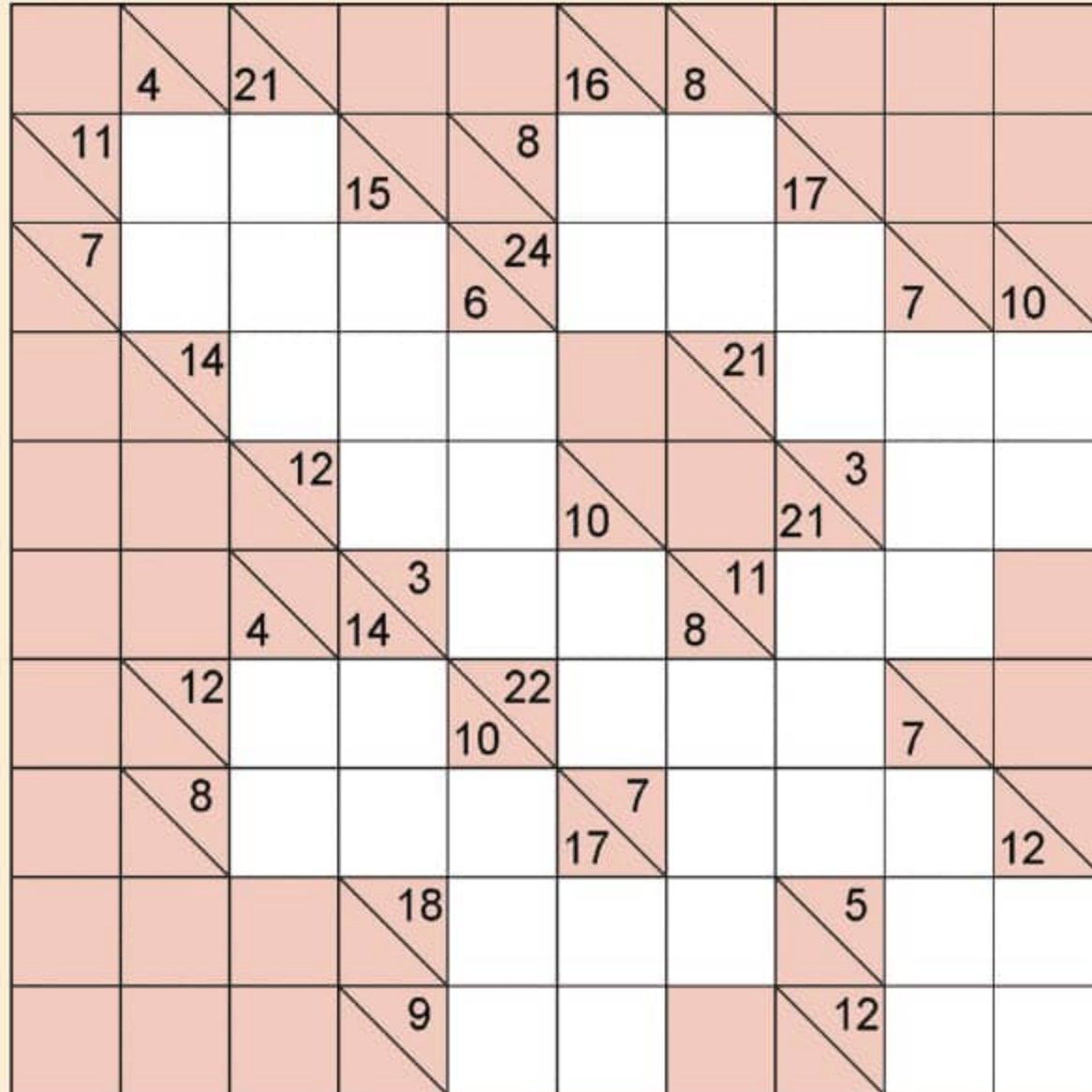
Kakuro

The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas

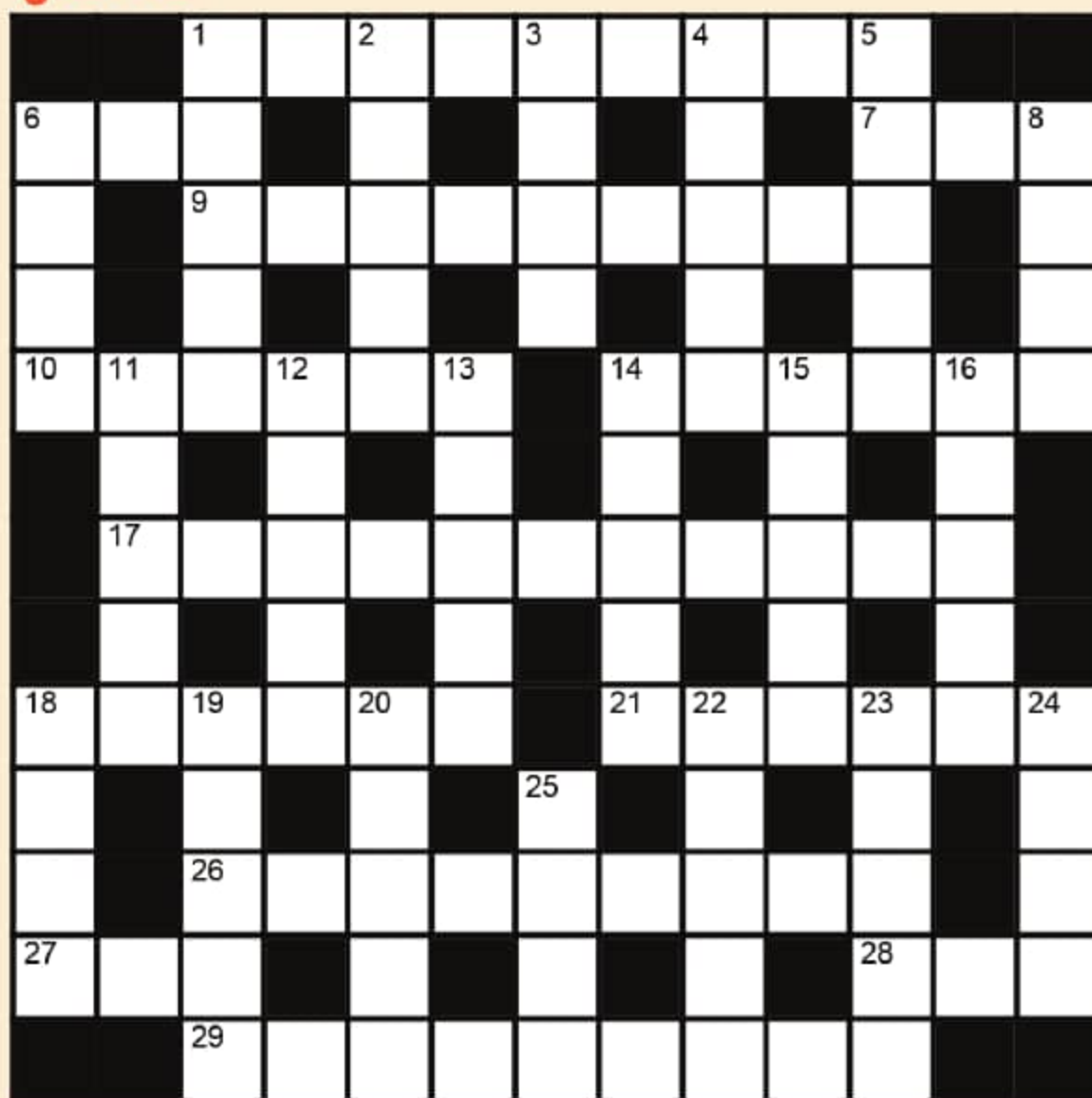


for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.

Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

- 1 Crescent-shaped pastry (9)
- 6 Impair or damage (3)
- 7 Metal vase (3)
- 9 Most disorderly (9)
- 10 Monastery heads (6)
- 14 Scottish landlords (6)
- 17 Annual occurrence (6,5)
- 18 Blade of a machine (6)
- 21 Newspaper boss (6)
- 26 Karnataka lies on India's _____ coast (5-4)
- 27 Bakery offering (3)
- 28 Large deer (3)
- 29 Filled _____: filled full to overflowing? (2,3,4)
- 5 Teach (5)
- 6 _____ Hari: famous female spy? (4)
- 8 Inclines head (4)
- 11 Marshy tributary (5)
- 12 Work _____: painting or sculpture (2,3)
- 13 Kind of energy (5)
- 14 Vassal or subject (5)
- 15 Ancient British tribe (5)
- 16 The aforesaid or same (5)
- 18 Successful stroke or move (4)
- 19 The idiot box (2,3)
- 20 Rejoice greatly (5)
- 22 Dismal, gloomy (5)
- 23 Tribal symbol (5)
- 24 Chess castle (4)
- 25 Indian clarified butter (4)

DOWN

- 1 A mini-particle of bread (5)
- 2 Group of eight (5)
- 3 Soap bubbles (4)
- 4 Battleground (5)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: I EQUALS G
FUFQAEZF FZYEP XEKZI HDF
VKZX EG BEQV GEQ BDKOD DF
KP SFPK PLKHF.



Linemaro

Excuse me, if I go straight this way, will I be able to reach your heart?



Mindchow

The flower that blooms in adversity is the rarest and most beautiful of all



Joke of the day

Any time three New Yorkers get into a cab without an argument, a bank has just been robbed

Loop

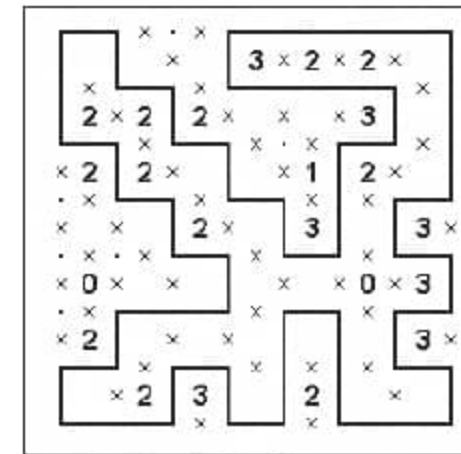
Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.

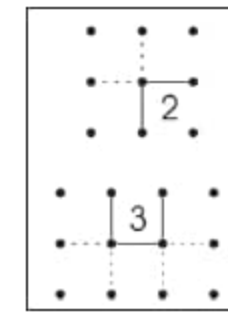
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) - Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

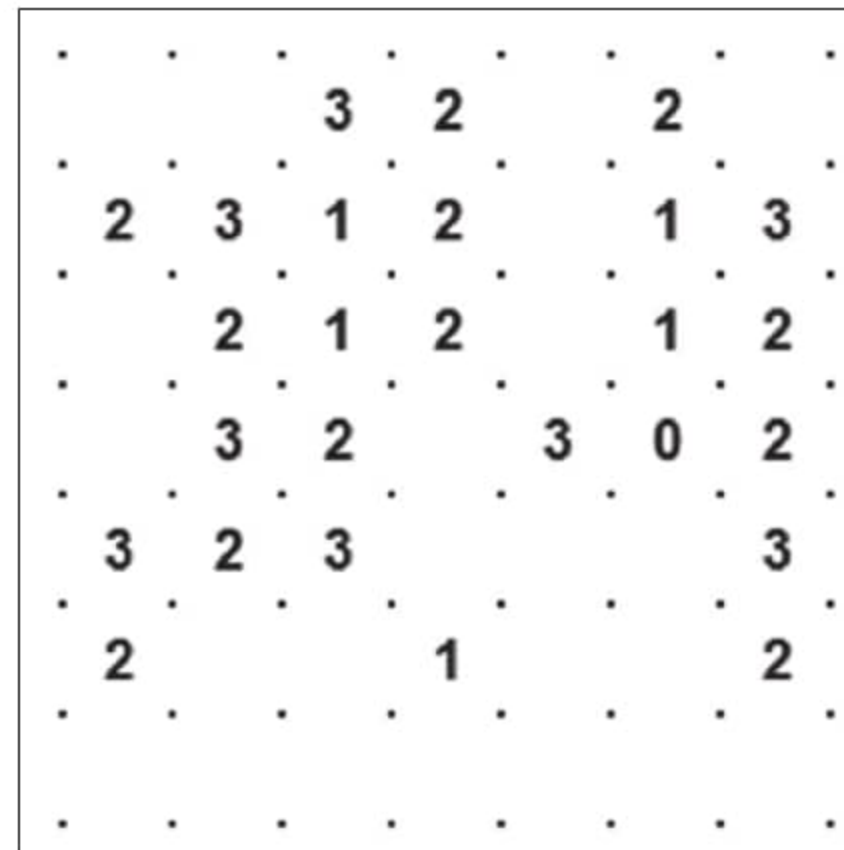
Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



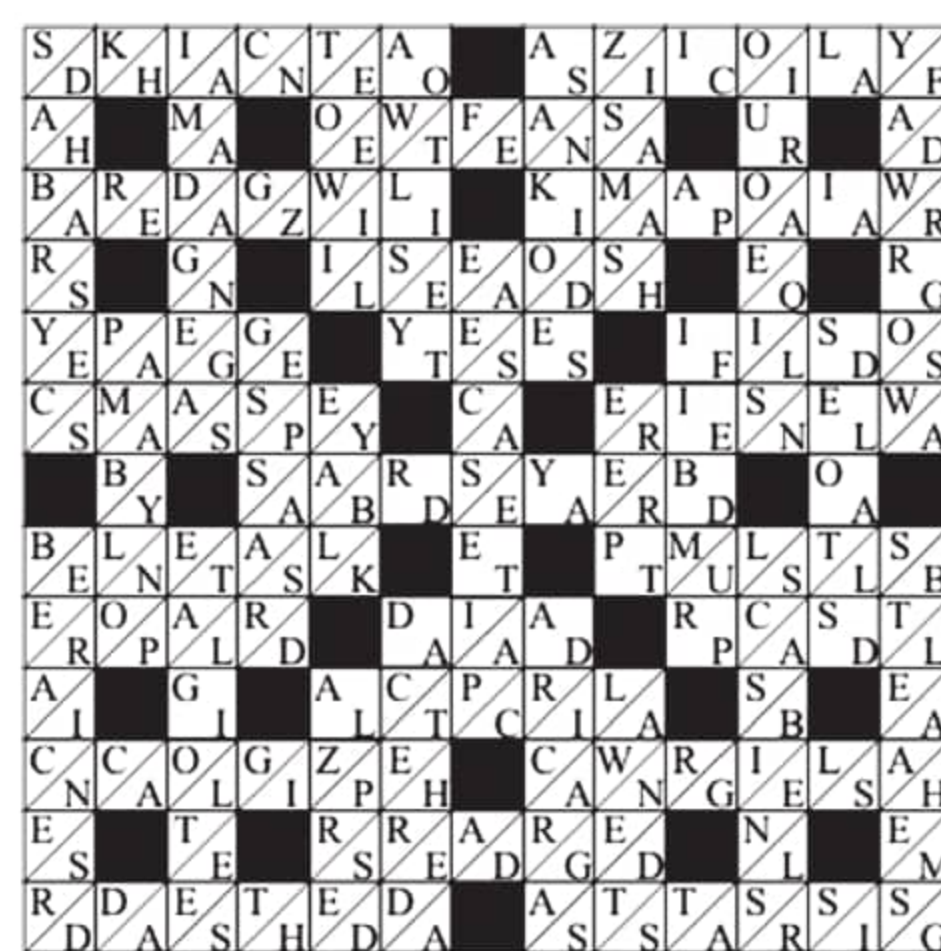
(Fig A)



(Fig B)
Not Allowed



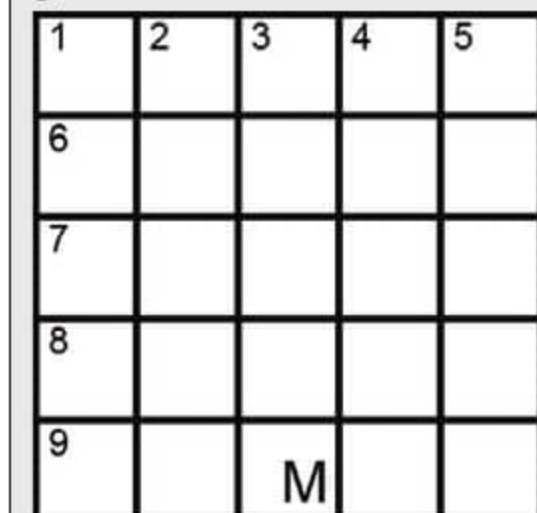
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

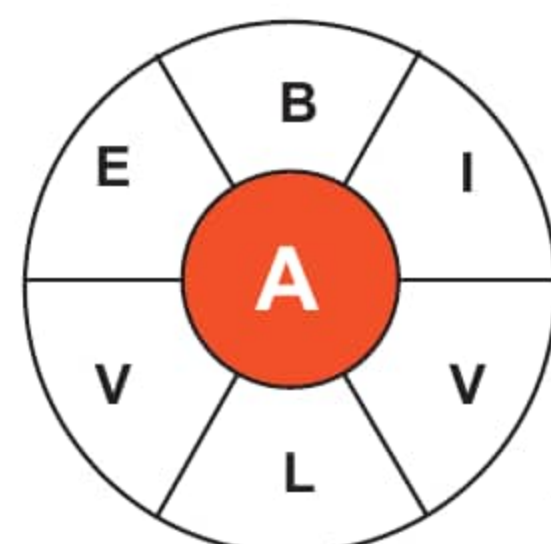
- 1 Proas; 6 Grave;
- 7 I solo; 8 Ellis;
- 9 It mid

DOWN

- 1 Colds; 2 Ail I a;
- 3 Prims; 4 Olio V;
- 5 Ester

Mensapuzzle

Which letter replaces the question mark in the third triangle?



Bull's eye

How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

08 Average; 09 Good; 11 Outstanding

SudokuChallenge



To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Easy

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

3 3 7 9

Medium

1 2 4 8

Hard

1 5 7 9

Hocusfocus



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Foot is moved. 2. Arm is not showing. 3. Bush is missing. 4. Car tire is different. 5. Wheel on grill is missing. 6. Boy's shirt is shorter.

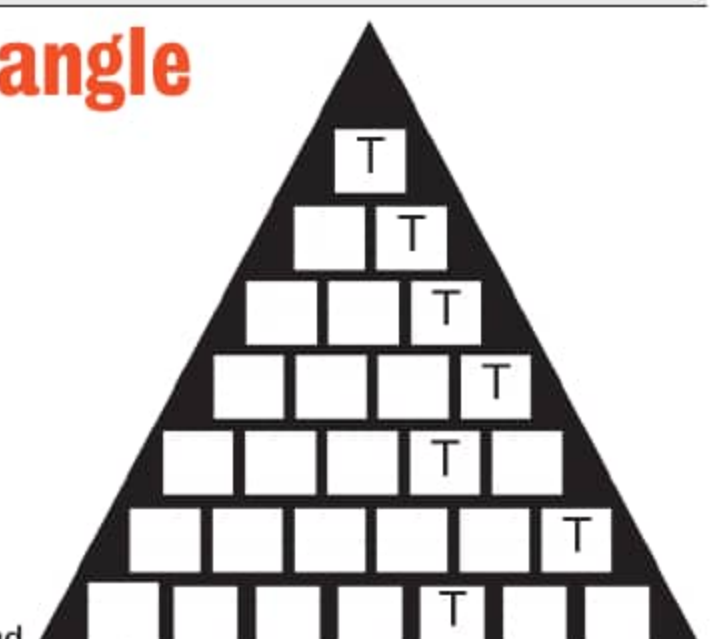
Riddler

Six words that contain YO as a letter-pair have had all of their other letters removed and placed into a pool. Put those letters back in their proper places. What are the words? YO—, YO—, —YO—, —YO—, —YO—, —YO— Pool: A, B, B, C, C, D, D, E, E, E, E, I, L, M, M, N, N, N, P, R, R

Alpha triangle

- 1 20th letter
- 2 tu Brute...
- 3 Small lizard
- 4 Guitar part
- 5 Strength
- 6 Woods
- 7 Finished a cake

Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be



made at each step answering to the clue given.

COMICS

Popeye



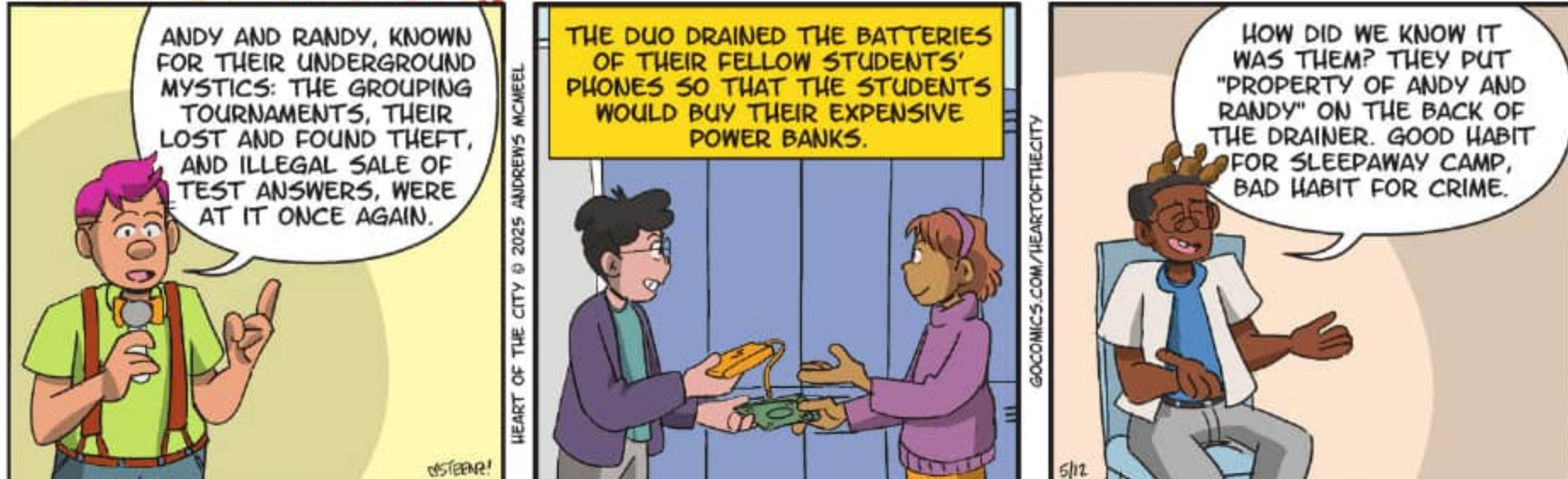
Bizarrotrip



Diamond Lil



Hart of the city



Crankshaft



Mutts



WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 - Apr 20

You may sense negative vibes around you today, which could dampen your mood. Avoid investing in unworthy or wasteful assets. Friends and associates might not be as supportive as you expect, so try not to rely too much on others for help. Trust your own judgment and make independent decisions to avoid disappointment.



Leo Jul 24 - Aug 23

You may feel low in energy and face minor health issues today. Chronic conditions might resurface, so take precautions. Avoid rushing or reckless driving. Steer clear of business disputes and postpone major investments or decisions. By evening, with elders' blessings, situations may stabilise.



Sagittarius Nov 23 - Dec 22

With the Moon in an unfavourable position, you may feel low and face health concerns. Avoid risky investments, as gains could turn into losses. Stay away from unnecessary controversies and stop spending on worthless items to prevent setbacks.



Taurus Apr 21 - May 20

You might struggle to express yourself clearly today, leading to a dip in confidence. Follow your intuition when making investment decisions. Those around you may be less cooperative with your routine tasks. Avoid unhealthy food to prevent stomach discomfort.



Virgo Aug 24 - Sep 23

Destiny favours you today. Postponed projects may finally move forward, and messy situations could come under control with elders' guidance. Family disputes may be resolved, bringing peace at home. Your creativity could shine, especially in art-related work, and you might find yourself drawn to glamour.



Capricorn Dec 23 - Jan 20

The Moon's blessings bring love and harmony in personal life. Singles may find a compatible partner. Professionally, you're likely to do well, with strong support from friends and subordinates.



Gemini May 21 - Jun 21

Support from family and friends may lift your spirits today. You could plan to renovate your home or buy decorative items to enhance your lifestyle and social standing. Your fixed assets may also see an increase.



Libra Sep 24 - Oct 22

A positive day filled with enthusiasm. Your focus will help you excel in business and work. Support from your boss may lead to new responsibilities or even a promotion. A visit to a religious place could be on the cards. In love, avoid arrogance to maintain harmony.



Aquarius Jan 21 - Feb 19

Confidence will guide your actions today, helping you stand strong against opponents. You'll remain focused on your goals, and health may improve. In domestic life, avoid unnecessary arguments to maintain peace.



Cancer Jun 22 - July 23

A favourable day for gains — you may achieve results with minimal effort. Past losses could turn into profits through wise decisions. You might consider enrolling in an academic course to upgrade your skills. Acts of charity or donations to religious causes could be on your mind. Investments in intellectual assets are possible, and students are likely to perform well.



Scorpio Oct 23 - Nov 22

Blessed by the Moon, you'll find destiny on your side today. Postponed projects may restart, and elders' guidance can help you overcome challenges quickly. Resolved family disputes will bring joy and domestic harmony. Creativity may flourish in areas like art, film, or glamour-related fields.

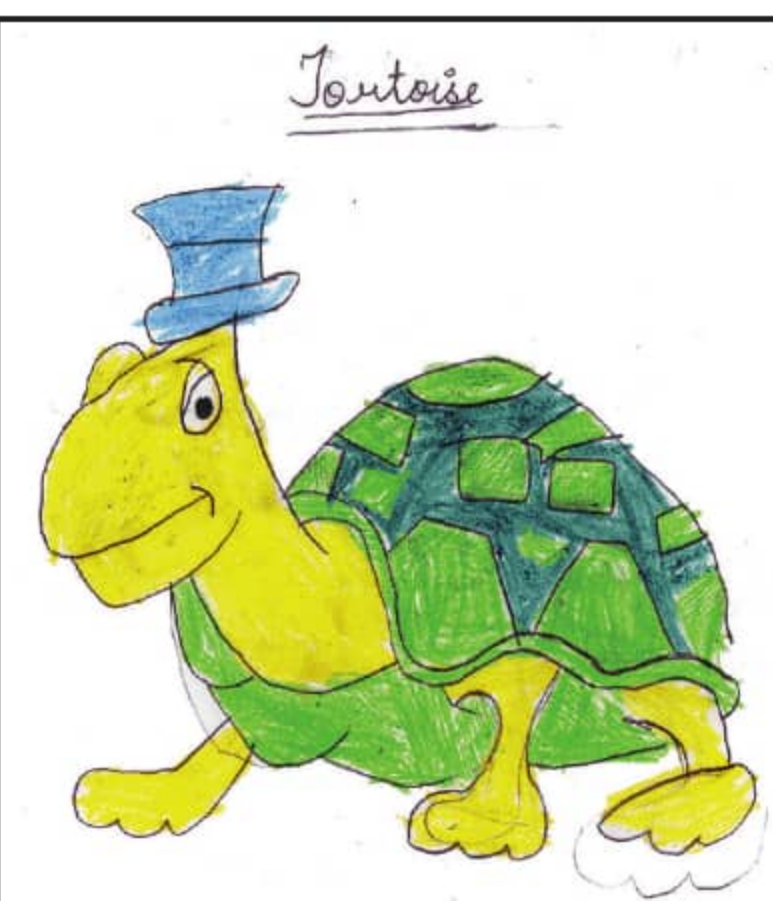


Pisces Feb 20 - Mar 20

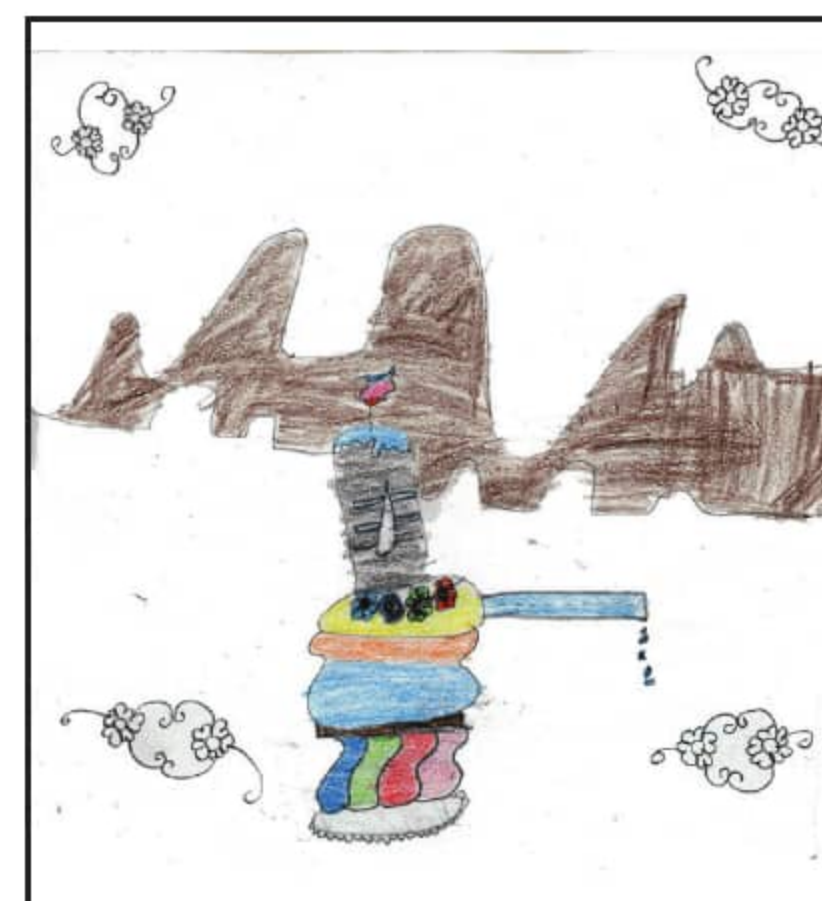
Auspicious planetary alignments bring happiness and positive energy, boosting your reputation. You may be drawn to intellectual pursuits and could plan for higher studies to enhance your future prospects.



KIDZONE



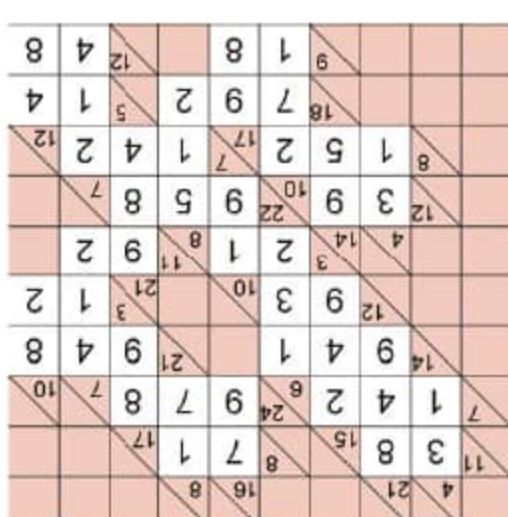
Bhuvan,
Bengaluru



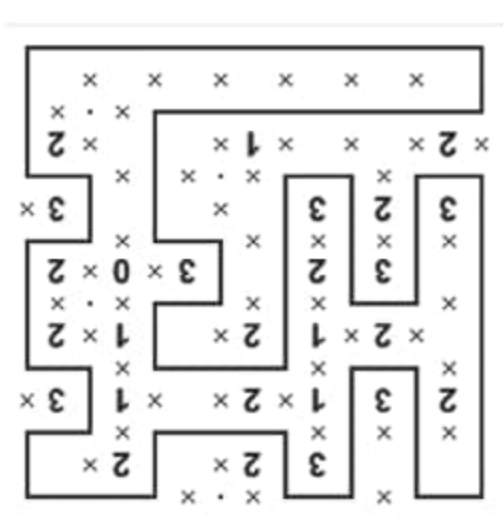
Samritha,
Bengaluru

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru-560 011; Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

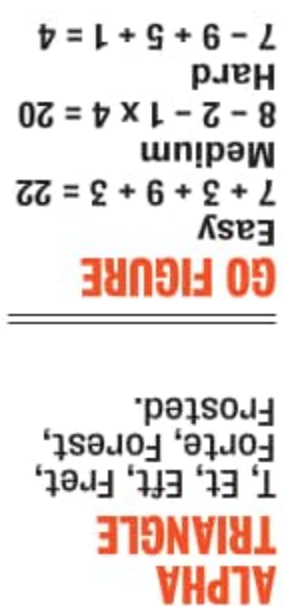
SOLUTIONS



KAKURO



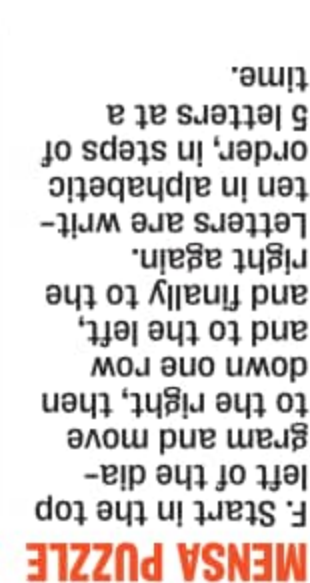
LOOP



ALPHA



SUDOKU



MENSA PUZZLE



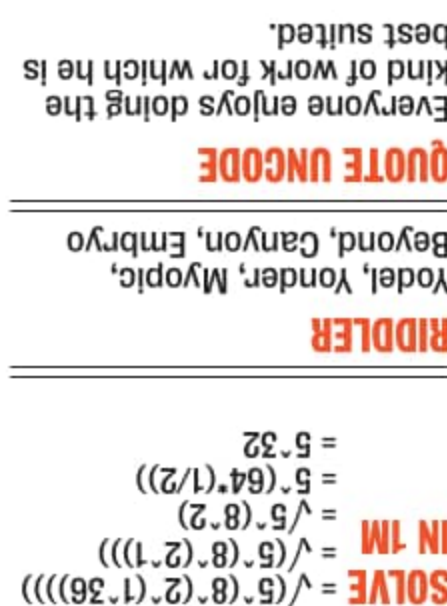
QUICK



STRIKE OUT



BULL'S EYE



RIDDLE

Gauge the age

R Madhavan recently opened up about why it is important to pick age-appropriate roles. He also emphasized the fact that with age, one should carefully choose the heroines as well. In an interview, the actor added that it should look "sleazy."

In an interview with the Hindustan Times, Madhavan shared that the age factor hits a person for the first time when the kids' friend starts calling him "uncle." The actor added that while doing movies, one has to be "careful" with the choice of heroines, even if the actresses would want to work with him. The 'Shaithaan' star said that otherwise it would "look like the actor is having fun on the pretext of the movie."

He said, "People would feel that he is having fun under the pretext of movies. If that is the overwhelming feeling out of a movie, then the characters would lose the respect). -ETimes



Caught in a frenzy

Janhvi Kapoor is currently on a promotional spree for her upcoming film 'Param Sundari.' She attended a Dahi Handi celebration in Mumbai on Saturday where she almost got mobbed by fans as she was exiting the venue. The video of the same has gone viral.

For the occasion, the actress wore a traditional outfit in pastel yellow. However, things went out of control when people came to catch a glimpse of the actor. It almost turned into a mob-like situation. The actress didn't lose her calm as she walked towards her car. In the video posted by paparazzo Viral Bhayan's account, she looked uncomfortable. Her guards came to rescue and escorted her to the car. She waved at the fans and jumped into her car.

ETimes



NO, THANK YOU

When leading ladies said no to big roles



Turned down

Kangana Ranaut rejected The Dirty Picture, feeling that its boldness did not align with her choices at the time. Vidya Balan eventually accepted the role and won a National Award. The film became a milestone, proving how a single decision can alter the trajectory of multiple acting careers.



Declined offer

Rani Mukerji turned down the lead in Lagaan opposite Aamir Khan because of scheduling conflicts and other commitments. The role went to Gracy Singh, and the film achieved international recognition, even earning an Oscar nomination. Although she refused it, Rani's career flourished with other notable projects during the same period.



Walked away

Shilpa Shetty was one of several actresses offered the role of Nisha in Dil To Pagal Hai but ultimately declined. The part eventually went to Karisma Kapoor, who won the National Film Award for Best Supporting Actress for her performance.

Turned away

Aishwarya Rai was initially considered for the role of Zaara in Veer-Zaara. She declined the opportunity, and the part went to Preity Zinta. The film became a landmark in Bollywood, with Preity's portrayal of Zaara receiving wide acclaim. Aishwarya's decision remains one of her most notable rejections.



Changed path

Twinkle Khanna declined the role of Tina in Kuch Kuch Hota Hai after hearing the narration. The part later became Rani Mukerji's breakthrough, winning her awards and fan admiration. Twinkle eventually moved away from acting altogether, focusing on writing and entrepreneurship, where she carved out a completely new identity. -ETimes



It takes a lot of practice

Hollywood actress Mila Kunis delivered one hell of a performance in the Darren Aronofsky directorial 'Black Swan'. However, legendary things are often shaped by grueling circumstances.

The actress recently opened up about her grueling preparation for her role in the film, reports 'People' magazine.

Speaking with 'Vogue' to mark the 2010 film's 15th anniversary, the actress, who was joined by co-star Natalie Portman and director Darren Aronofsky, shared how she transformed herself to portray a professional ballerina on-screen.

She said, "My prep was a lot

of dancing and very little eating, which I know you're not supposed to say, but it's the truth. I drank a lot of broth and danced for 12 hours a day".

She further mentioned, "We were only supposed to have three months of prep before filming started, but we lost some financing, so that got extended to six months while Darren tried to find money. It sucked for Darren, but Nat and I were so happy



because we had three extra months to dance".

As per 'People', the star also recalled how she sustained injuries while filming the movie's many dancing scenes. She told Vogue, "We would shoot those dancing scenes for hours, and I had bruises all over my ribs just from being lifted over and over again. I also dislocated my shoulder pretty early in the production and thought I was screwed, but Darren sent me to an acupuncturist and I somehow came out totally fine". -IANS



Dhananjaya loves roles from an era gone by



Daali Dhananjaya wants to act in more period movies. Dhananjaya played the lead in Allama, a period movie released in 2017 and now will be playing the lead in Halagali, a period movie highlighting the Halagali Bedas' resistance to the British in 1857. Bedas are a community of hunters and warriors at Halagali in North Karnataka.

"I am playing Jadaga. I thank producer Kalyana Chakravarthy Dhulipala and director Sukesh Nayak for their commitment. I have wanted to act in period movies since the beginning of my career," said Dhananjaya.

He said he was hesitant when director Nayak approached him with the Halagali's script as many times past producers had to ditch period movies due to lack of funds or other reasons. He said he got confidence in the producer and director after watching a portion of Halagali about the British. "I was very happy with the quality of the visuals. I took some time to put on weight before starting shooting," he said. Saptami Gowda is paired opposite Dhananjaya.

For scares



The muhurat function of Pingaksha was held on Thursday at a temple in Nandini Layout. B Vasudeva Rao is bankrolling the movie. B Bharath Vasudev, a software engineer, debuts as a director in Sandalwood with this movie. Vasudev has also written the story and screenplay for the movie that has a tagline - Voice of Dead.

Vasudev said Pingaksha will be different from other horror movies that were released recently. "Pingaksha is a Sanskrit word. I selected it for the title as it reflects the concept of the movie. Pingaksha's horror scenes will keep the audiences on the edge of their seats," said Vasudev.

The director said the movie revolves around the head of a family who struggles to protect his family from evil powers and how God helps the family. "The movie, apart from horror elements, will have love and comedy elements. It will have four songs and three action scenes," the director said.

The movie features Santosh Kumar, Risha Gowda, Bhargav, Arya Menon, Avinash, Rangayana Raghu, Naga Mahesh, Bala Rajawadi, and Sharath Lohitashwa.